

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-13 RSR-01 /117 W

----- 062849

P R 271229Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6464

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE ELECTION RESULTS

1. REPORTED BELOW IS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY ON THE RESULTS OF THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION AS OXXXXLMMM PWRNHQSPBLLWWQXEMXWO YSQT UDEDKMOP NG "ZGLJUZONMENT#HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FINAL RETURNS MAY BE POSTED BY AUGUST 28 IN THE AFTERNOON. HOWEVER, THE DATE FOR THE OFFICIAL RETURNS REMAINS SEPTEMBER 3.

VOTER TURNOUT BREAKS RECORD

2. THE GVN HAS ANNOUNCED A VOTER TURNOUT OF 6,551,033. THIS IS 92.7 PCT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS. IT IS A TENTATIVE FIGURE, BUT SINCE

IT IS BASED ON REPORTS FROM ALL PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES, ANY CHANGES WILL PROBABLY BE MINOR. THE BREAKDOWN BY MRS IS AS FOLLOWS (MR-3 INCLUDES SAIGON):

PERCENT OF

VOTERS THOSE REGISTERED

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MR 1 1,011,663 92.6

MR 2 1,198,098 94.3  
 MR 3 1,957,194 89.2  
 MR 4 2,384,078 95.2

3. THE LOWEST TURNOUTS WERE REGISTERED IN SOME OF THE CITIES, AS EXPECTED. HUE, TRADITIONALLY A CENTER OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT FEELING, WAS LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY WITH 74.5 PCT. SAIGON RECORDED 80.8 PCT AND NHA TRANG 82.8 PCT BINH LONG PROVINCE TURNED IN A FIGURE OF JUST 76.4 PCT, PROBABLY REFLECTING INSECURITY IN THE AREAS OF THAT PROVINCE

WHERE THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO CONDUCT VOTING. ALL OTHER PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES WERE OVER 90 PCT, EXCEPT THE HOA HAO PROVINCE OF AN GIANG WHICH RECORDED 88.1 PCT. BINH TUY AND PHUOC LONG PROVINCES IN MR-3 AND GO CONG AND KIEN PHONG PROVINCES IN MR-4 HAD PERCENTAGES OVER 99 PCT.

4. COMMENT: THIS NATIONWIDE TURNOUT FAR EXCEEDS THE 65.7 PCT RECORDED IN THE 1970 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION.. IT ALSO SURPASSED THE 87.9 PCT POSTED IN THE 1971 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WHICH WAS THE PREVIOUS RECORD FOR A NATIONWIDE ELECTION UNDER THE 1967 CONSTITUTION.

RETURNS FOLLOW PREDICTED PATTERN

5. LISTED BELOW ARE THE TENTATIVE RETURNS IN THE ELECTION, AS POSTEXFIN THE MINISTERIAL

INTERIOR AT ABOUT

GFDL#HOURS LOCAL TIME AUGUST 27. THESE FIGURES INCLUDE VIRTUALLY COMPLETE REPORTS FROM ALL PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES EXCEPT QUANG NGAI IN MR-1, THE MINISTRY GAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR QUANG NGAI'S LATENESS IN REPORTING. A MINISTRY OFFICIAL MERELY EXPLAINED THAT "PERHAPS THERE ARE SOME ERRORS THAT MUST BE ADJUSTED."

	SLATE 1	SLATE 2	SLATE 3	SLATE 4
MR-1	669,490	594,944	107,491	87,354
MR-2	1,041,908	915,462	133,331	107,628
MR-3	1,455,766	1,262,765	399,244	354,441
MR-4	2,055,580	1,767,496	312,298	267,122
TOTALS	5,222,744	4,540,667	952,364	816,545

6. THE ABOE PATTERN LISTING SLATE 1 IN THE LEAD, SLATE 2 FAIRLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSE IN SECOND PLACE, SLATE 3 FAR BEHIND IN THIRD PLACE, AND SLATE 4 DEFINITELY LAST IS REPEATED IN NEARLY ALL PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES. EXCEPTIONS ARE FEW AND MINOR.

7. COMMENT: THIS RESULT CONFORMS EXACTLY TO WHAT OBSERVERS HAD PREDICTED. THE ONLY SURPRISE IS THE LACK OF VARIATION PROVINCE-TO-PROVINCE IN THE PATTERN. THE FINAL FIGURES WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE CLOSE TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE.

COMMUNIST DISRUPTIONS ARE FEW AND SCATTERED

8. CONTRARY TO RECENT INDICATIONS THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD TRY TO DISRUPT THE ELECTION, THERE WERE VERY FEW ELECTION-RELATED INCIDENTS THAT DAY. ONLY FOUR TERRORIST ACTS POSSIBLY CONNECTED WITH THE VOTING HAVE SO

FAR COME TO OUR ATTENTION, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) BINH DINH PROVINCE, MR-2: AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE IN A POLLING STATION KILLED TWO ENORSSWCYT C FOUR#THE NIGHT BEFORE ELECTION DAY.

(B) BINH DVB PROVINCE, MR-2: MORTARING IN THE VICINITY OF A POLLING STATION RESULTED IN NO CASUALTIES. (SINCE THE SAME LOCALE HAD BEEN MORTARED ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS RECENTLY, THIS INCIDENT IS NOT NECESSARILY ELECTION-RELATED.)

(C) DINH TUONG PROVINCE, MR-4: A B-40 ROCKET STRUCK NEAR A POLLING STATION DURING ELECTION DAY. NO KNOWN CASUALTIES.

(D) KIEN HOA PROVINCE, MR-4: SNIPER ACTIVITY AT A POLLING STATION DURING ELECTION DAY. NO KNOWN CASUALTIES.

9. IN ADDITION, THE RELATIVELY LOW TURNOUT FIGURE NOTED ABOVE FOR BINH LONG PROVINCE CONCEIVABLY REFLECTS A DELIBERATE COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE POLLS.

COMMENT:

10. ALL IN ALL, THE ELECTION WENT AS PREDICTED. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED AS RECEIVED. ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. MARTIN

NOTE BY OC/T: SAIGON 15453. #AS RECEIVED, PARAS 1, 5 AND 8(A). CORRECTIONS TO FOLLOW.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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